

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 11, 16 to 20, 22 to 26, 31, 33 to 37, 42, 46 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,581,092 (Motoyama), and Claims 12 to 15, 27 to 30, 38 to 41 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Motoyama in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0267892 (Kikinis). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

In one aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47, the status of a device (e.g., a printer) is monitored such that a user can be informed of a change in status of the device (e.g., that an error has occurred, or that an ink cartridge needs to be exchanged) via email. According to the invention, data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus is generated in the device (e.g., in the printer) and transmitted to an external apparatus (e.g., in the host computer), where the setting screen is for setting destination information of a destination for an electronic mail. Once the destination is set using the setting screen, when a change of status occurs in the device, transmission data which includes an obtained message and the received destination information is generated and transmitted as an electronic mail to the set destination.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit adapted to obtain status information about a status of the device, a message obtaining unit adapted to obtain a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit adapted to generate transmission data according to the message obtained by the obtaining unit and destination information indicating a message destination, an electronic mail transmission unit adapted to transmit as electronic

mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit, a data generation unit adapted to generate data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting the destination information, a data transmission unit adapted to transmit the data generated by the data generation unit to the external apparatus via a network, and a destination information reception unit adapted to receive the destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 16, 46 and 47 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 5 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising an information holding unit adapted to hold setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message depending on a status of the device, a data generation unit adapted to generate data indicating a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting the setting information, a data transmission unit adapted to transmit the data generated by the data generation unit to the external apparatus via a network, and a setting information reception unit adapted to receive the setting information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 20, 31 and 42 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device being monitored generating data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the

setting screen being for setting destination information indicating a message destination, and transmitting the generated data to the external apparatus via a network.

Motoyama is merely seen to disclose that a computer connected to an external apparatus transmits electronic mail to a certain email address. Motoyama does not specify where the address is set, but it can be presumed from the recitation that the electronic mail processor is realized by a commercial mail program, such as Outlook Express (Microsoft) or Group Wise (Novell), that the setting screen for setting the address is displayed on a display unit of the computer. Thus, Motoyama does not generate data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting destination information indicating a message destination, or transmit the generated data to the external apparatus via a network. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47 are not believed to be anticipated by Motoyama.

Kikinis is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Motoyama. In this regard, Kikinis is merely seen to disclose that a received e-mail is searched for certain words or phrases that match words or phrases stored in look-up table. However, Kikinis is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motoyama, would have resulted in the feature of device being monitored generating data that indicates a setting screen to be displayed on an external apparatus, the setting screen being for setting destination information indicating a message destination, and transmitting the generated data to the external apparatus via a network.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In a related aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, the device (e.g., printer) generates an electronic mail which includes a status message and a

registered reply destination different from the source of the e-mail for replying to the electronic mail, and sends the electronic mail to a stored destination. As a result, when a user receives the e-mail from the printer with the status message, the user will not reply back to the printer, but will reply to the different address indicated in the reply destination.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit adapted to obtain status information about a status of the device, a message obtaining unit adapted to obtain a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a storage unit adapted to store destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail, a registration unit adapted to register reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail different from a source of the electronic mail, a transmission data generation unit adapted to generate transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit, the generated transmission data including the destination information and the reply destination information, and an electronic mail transmission unit adapted to transmit as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit.

Claims 27, 38 and 43 are device, method, and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device registering reply destination information which is different from a source of an electronic mail.

Neither Motoyama or Kikinis are seen to disclose the foregoing features.

Motoyama merely teaches sending status messages, but it not seen to register reply destination

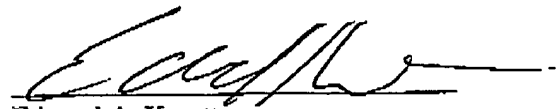
information that is different from a source of an electronic mail. Kikinis recites that "an e-mail client application is provided that may be conveniently used by an agent who may receive e-mails addressed to different companies or organizations, and reply to such messages in a manner that different "from" and "reply to" addresses are inserted automatically as though the one agent were different agents of different organizations" (paragraph 0018). This recitation means that one message has "from: organization A; reply to: organization A" addresses and another message has "from: organization B; reply to: organization B" addresses, but does not mean that a single one message has "from: organization A; reply to: organization B" addresses. Kikinis therefore fails to teach or suggest registering, for the same one electronic mail, a source destination and a reply destination that differ from each other.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 12, 27, 28 and 42, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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